DATE 3/20/15
HB 604

HB-604 committee,

I live in Florence about 2 blocks from the Bitterroot walk/ride trail that currently runs from Lolo to Hamilton. I'm 68 year old and ride a bicycle several times a week for exercise. I contracted polio as a 2 year old and have issues with distance walking, therefore being able to ride for exercise/good health has been great for me.

I have been using the trail for over 10 years as a safe place to ride. Riding on road edges is relatively dangerous. I do not enjoy it and I know drivers are apprehensive when approaching a bicyclist on the highway or I hope they are. The trail has gained increased usage every year.

With all this said I hope you can find maintenance dollars to keep the trails usable for all Montanans in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Dennis Simmerman,

Montana resident 43 years

5456 Wildlife Way Florence, Montana